

"AN ACT TO PERMIT A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM TO PURCHASE UP TO TWELVE MONTHS OF CREDITED SERVICE FOR EDUCATIONAL LEAVE TAKEN DURING THE PERIOD OF EMPLOYMENT IN A POSITION COVERED BY THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. (a) As used herein, "educational leave" means a leave of absence from employment in a position covered by the Public Employees Retirement System to pursue a degree from an institute of higher education.

(b) "System" means the Public Employees Retirement System of the State of Arkansas.

SECTION 2. On or after July 1, 1987 any person who is now a member of the Public Employees Retirement System and who is not receiving benefits under such system on July 1, 1987, shall be entitled to purchase credited service in the System for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months, for actual time spent on educational leave, provided that:

(a) The person has ten (10) or more years of creditable service with the System; and

(b) was paid a stipend during the period of educational leave; and

(c) had creditable service before and for at least two years after the period of educational leave; and

(d) he contributes to the member's deposit account a sum of money equal to the amount he would have contributed if he was participating as a contributory member in the System during the educational leave and interest thereon at the rate of six percent (6%), together with an amount equal to the employer matching contribution and interest thereon at the rate of six percent (6%) based upon the rate and salary effective at the time the educational leave began. Interest shall be computed from the date the member returned to employment from educational leave.

SECTION 3. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed.

APPROVED: February 13, 1987

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